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## From the Director

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# FROM THE DIRECTOR



Having just returned from five months of educational leave, I am energized and even more passionate about the work we have ahead of us. During my time away, I had an opportunity to study the terror that landmines caused civilians during the 1943–1944 Italian campaign and how those mines were cleared. They are stories not dissimilar from today's conflicts, including in Yemen.

On 13 June, the Embassy of the Republic of Yemen held a landmine briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., during which I presented on the country's survivor assistance needs and Associate Director, Suzanne Fiederlein, served as the event's moderator.

In looking toward CISR's work over the next few months, from 16 September to 4 October, we will hold our 15th Senior Managers' Course (SMC) in Conventional Weapons Destruction (CWD) at our home base of James Madison University (JMU) in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. CISR, working in close collaboration with faculty from JMU's College of Business, specializes in management training for leaders in humanitarian mine action (HMA) and CWD around the world, including participants from Iraq, Libya, and Syria, an area of focus for this issue of *The Journal*.

We are pleased to have a number of extraordinary articles focused on the Middle East, beginning with a call to action by HRH Prince Mired R. Z. Al-Hussein titled, "The Challenge of Managing Mine Action in Jordan." In his editorial, Prince Mired outlines how Jordan embraced national ownership in its work to rid itself of landmines despite significant challenges, and discusses the country's future efforts of focusing on victim assistance, mine risk education, and training. Turning our attention to Iraq, Dr. Mark Wilkinson of the United Nations Mine Action Service presents two outstanding articles on IEDs in 'simple' and 'complex' environments, focusing on the urban areas of Fallujah and Mosul. Continuing with our focus on Iraq, we feature a photo essay by Sean Sutton on MAG's work in the country, which highlights in-depth, personal interviews with Iraqis affected by landmines. And finally, we feature an article by Henrique Garbino (FSD) on the effects of landmines on food security in Lebanon, highlighting that access denial to agricultural land and the financial burdens born by the government are the most significant challenges to food production in the country.

In addition, we feature articles on the safe and secure management of ammunition. The first article is from Matthias Krötz and Joseph Farha (BICC) on the need to develop national and regional capacities, and the second from Nora Allgaier and Samuel Paunila (GICHD) on the global challenge of managing ammunition stockpiles. Additionally, we feature an article from Roly Evans (GICHD) and David Hewitson (Fenix Insight) about the need to standardize key performance indicators in HMA, as well as an article from Robert Syfret and Chris Cooper from The HALO Trust that provides broader practical information for mine action operators on the use of thermite at field and program levels.

As we look ahead, I will be attending and participating in the Global Conference on Assistance to Victims of Anti-Personnel Mines and Other Explosive Remnants of War, and on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Amman, Jordan from 10–12 September, which is a focus for our upcoming calls for papers. For more information on future topics of discussion or for information about *The Journal*, please email enquiries to: [cisr-journal@jmu.edu](mailto:cisr-journal@jmu.edu).

Ken Rutherford,  
CISR Director

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